4 "A PERSONALITY OF ITS OWN": ASYLUM AS DIATHESIS

Workman's successor at the Toronto Asylum is Daniel Clark (1835-1912), Medical Superintendent from 1875-1905. Clark was born in Scotland and emigrated to Canada in 1841. He obtained his M.D. from Victoria University in 1858, studied chloroform anaesthesia under Dr. James Simpson of Edinburgh, and served as a volunteeer surgeon in the Union Army of the Potomac. According to Thomas Brown he "had no training or experience in caring for the insane when he was appointed superintendent of the Toronto Asylum in December, 1875 .... it is difficult to escape the conclusion ... that his appointment was little more than a political reward by the Liberal government of Oliver Mowat for Clark's active support of the Grit cause in the riding of North Oxford (Ontario)" (236).[lii] An item, in The Canada Lancet 8 (1876): 156, reports a banquet given to Clark in Princeton, by a number of officials including members of parliament, on the occasion of his appointment to the position of Superintendent at the Toronto Asylum. A portion of his speech is paraphrased:

> The position to which he had been appointed was the one he would have chosen in preference to all others. He had made insanity a special study, not for the purpose of receiving any appointment, for he had never dreamed of such a thing, but soley for the love of the study of that subject -- insanity. He had never applied for the appointment -- it was urged upon the Government by the spontaneous will of the Medical Council of Ontario. (156)